

Continuing Education Report: IACRL Annual Conference
March 16, 2012
Oakbrook, IL

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I would like to extend my appreciation to LIBRAS for its generous support that enabled me to attend the 2012 IACRL conference.

Summary of what you learned at this event

The sessions that I attended all fell into the "unconference" category. With this designation the presentations were short and to the point as there were multiple speakers.

In the morning I gathered good information about drawing in and upon library school students looking for interns and practicum experiences. This was helpful to hear from an expert in the field and has helped facilitate working with a current practicum student from Dominican.

This early session was followed by another "unconference." One of the presentations was on Guerrilla Tech and discussed how to dive into various tech-oriented solutions and to be willing to take risks, fail fast, and move on if necessary. One of the themes was to be willing to try things out and not feel that you are wedded to a project as it is outlined, especially when it is clearly under-performing or failing.

The keynote address was given by Steven Bell who discussed adopting a design approach to accelerate innovation in the library context. This session dovetailed well with the Guerrilla Tech lightning session.

The conference's afternoon sessions focused upon new technological solutions for supplying resources to students and patrons through institutional repositories and acquiring e-books. These sessions gave practical help and insight from those that are a bit ahead of the curve.

Recommendations/Suggestions for my library could benefit from this information *

I think one of the things that Buswell Library can benefit from is to consider the planning and implementation of projects as steps along the way and that things don't have to be set in stone to be successful or to reach the stated goal. Sometimes so much time is spent in seeking the exact perfect absolute best solution rather than moving forward with some solution and re-evaluating. This could be summed up in the concept of continual improvement.